

Senate unanimously passes Corzine resolution on plant security

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WASHINGTON -- The Senate unanimously passed a resolution Thursday introduced by Sen. Jon Corzine that calls for federal standards to protect the country's chemical plants from terrorist attacks, the first time either body of Congress has done so.

"I am extremely pleased the Senate is now on record calling for mandatory federal standards at our nation's unguarded chemical plants, which are essentially pre-positioned weapons of mass destruction for use against the American people," said Corzine, who also has introduced a bill to beef up security at chemical plants.

"There is real, overwhelming consensus that something must be done, and momentum is on our side."

Unlike past years, Corzine's bill has a chance of getting through the Senate this Congress. Corzine, D-N.J., first introduced his chemical plant security bill in October 2001, following the Sept. 11 attacks. The measure was stalled the following year by heavy opposition lobbying from the chemical industry.

Corzine is also working with Sens. Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., respectively the chairwoman and ranking member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, on a bipartisan measure on chemical plant security.



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